

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W

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R 211005Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1479

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV PO

SUBJ: ARREST OF ADM SARMENTO RODRIGUES

REF: (A) LISBON 5538; (B) LISBON 5594; (C) LISBON 5601;

(D) STATE 007989

1. LISBON REFTELS PROVIDE BACKGROUND TO ARREST OF NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE BUSINESSMEN, INCLUDING SARMENTO RODRIGUES, ON CHARGES OF ECONOMIC CRIMES. WHILE SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL, ALL TORRALTA EXECUTIVES ARRESTED, INCLUDING SARMENTO RODRIGUES, ARE STILL IN CUSTODY. AS A RESERVE OFFICER IN NAVY, SARMENTO RODRIGUES FAILS UNDER MILITARY JURISDICTION AND HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE CIVILIAN TRIBUNAL.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARREST OF SARMENTO RODRIGUES AND OTHERS ACCUSED OF ECONOMIC CRIMES, CARRIED OUT IN ACCORD WITH PORTUGUESE LAW, AND SUGGEST THAT DEPT SO INFORM PORTUGUESE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO.

3. FYI: WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SARMENTO RODRIGUES NOT BEING TREATED FAIRLY IN PRISON. OTHERS HELD IN PAST (E.G., THOSE ARRESTED AFTER SEPTEMBER 28) AND LATER RELEASED HAVE NOT COMPLAINED OF HARSH TREATMENT. WHEN SARMENTO RODRIGUES WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL NOT YET KNOWN,
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BUT PAST EXPERIENCE SUGGEST SEVERAL MONTHS AT LEAST. ONLY ONE

PERSON WHO ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ECONOMIC CRIMES SINCE
APRIL 25 HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL (FORMER RTP HEAD RAMIRO
VALADAO), AND HE REMAINED IN JAIL OVER 8 MONTHS WHILE PRO-
SECUTION GATHERED EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM. END FYI.
CARLUCCI

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